

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS***The Pending Claims***

Claims 11-15, 25, 27, 32-34, 66-68, and 70-72 are pending and directed to a mutant *ras* peptide (claims 11-15 and 72), a mutant *ras* peptide-carrier molecule conjugate (claims 25, 66, and 67), an immunogen comprising the mutant *ras* peptide (claim 27), and a pharmaceutical composition comprising the mutant *ras* peptide (claims 32-34, 68, 70, and 71).

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to include a replacement sequence listing comprising SEQ ID NO: 15 and include an incorporation-by-reference of electronically filed material (i.e., the replacement sequence listing). The amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15 is recited in claims 12-15 and is supported by original claims 10 and 11; page 10, lines 1-4; page 11, lines 5-7; and the Examples (e.g., Example 1) detailing a mutant ras p21 13-mer reflecting positions 5-17 of ras p21.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments to the specification.

Amendments to the Claims

The claims have been amended to point out more particularly and claim more distinctly the invention. Claim 11 has been amended to recite the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 14 of the sequence listing. Claims 12-15 have been amended to clarify the claim language and to indicate that the recited amino acid sequence corresponds to SEQ ID NO: 15. The amendments to claims 12-15 are supported by original claims 10 and 11; page 10, lines 1-4; page 11, lines 5-7; and the Examples.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments to the claims.

Summary of the Office Action

The Office indicates that claims 25, 27, 32-34, 66-68, and 70-72 are allowed.

The Office objects to claims 11-15 as failing to comply with the Sequence Rules.

The Office rejects claims 11-15 for allegedly lacking written description.

Reconsideration of the objection and rejection are hereby requested.

Discussion of the Claim Objection

The Office contends that claims 11-15 identify the amino acid sequence of Xaa₁ Leu Xaa₂ Val Val Gly Ala Xaa₃ Gly Val Gly Lys Ser as SEQ ID NO: 14, but SEQ ID NO: 14 does not contain Gly Lys Ser at the C-terminus.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite the amino acid sequence set forth in the sequence listing for SEQ ID NO: 14. Claims 12-15 have been amended to indicate that the recited amino acid sequence corresponds to SEQ ID NO: 15 (SEQ ID NO: 15 is set forth in the replacement sequence listing submitted herewith).

Applicants believe the objection to the claims is moot in view of these amendments. Therefore, Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

Discussion of the Written Description Rejection

The Office contends that claims 11-15 encompass a genus of truncated peptides of SEQ ID NO: 15, wherein the fragments retain the Xaa₁ residue and wherein when Xaa₂ is Val, then Xaa₁ is Tyr, or a genus of peptides from 8 to 13 amino acids in length, wherein Xaa₁ is Tyr and Xaa₃ is Asp (see page 3 of the Office Action dated February 8, 2008). The Office contends that the specification only provides one example of a peptide that falls within the claims (i.e., SEQ ID NO: 11), such that one of ordinary skill in the art would not reasonably conclude that Applicants were in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing (see page 3 of the Office Action dated February 8, 2008). Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

The specification describes *ras* peptides comprising 8 to 13 amino acids which have a mutation at position 12 relative to normal *ras* (i.e., Xaa₃) and can contain additional substitutions, such as at position 5 relative to normal *ras* (see, e.g., page 10, lines 1-15; page 11, lines 3-10; as well as original claims 10-24).

In particular, the specification describes several examples of mutant *ras* peptides, such as SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, 10, 12, and 13, as well as portions (i.e., fragments), variants, and analogs thereof (see, e.g., page 10, line 16, through page 11, line 10; and page 19, line 15, through page 20, line 18). Although the Office contends that the peptides of SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, 10, 12, and 13 contain Lys at position Xaa₁, the specification expressly teaches that variants or analogs include the substitution of Lys at position 5 relative to normal *ras* (i.e., position Xaa₁ of SEQ ID NO: 14 and 15) with Tyr (see page 11, lines 3-10), as recited in the pending claims. For example, the specification cites to SEQ ID NO: 11, which is a variant of SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the Lys at position 5 relative to normal *ras* (i.e., position Xaa₁ of SEQ ID NO: 14 and 15) is substituted with Tyr.

Accordingly, the specification provides sufficient description of mutant *ras* peptides, such that one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that Applicants had possession of the invention at the time of filing. Therefore, Applicant request that the written description rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent.

Respectfully submitted,



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